



**OUR FINANCIAL PROGRESS**

We want to keep you up to date on the financial status of the church.

As of 11/30/21

Annual Apportionments	\$	18,009.00
Paid/set aside thru November		<u>- 18,009.00</u>
BALANCE DUE	\$	0.00
Starting Balance	\$	3,068.00
Income November	+	15,575.00
Expense November	-	27,350.00
Transfer from Foundation	+	<u>10,000.00</u>
Ending balance	\$	1,293.00

Thank you for being such faithful givers. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Your Finance Team

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**OUR MISSION**



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- Pastor's Grace Notes
- Kudos to...
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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- Dec 7 - Life Line Screening**
- Dec 9- Meadows Chorus Christmas Concert**
- Dec 12 - The Haven playing chimes during worship**
- Dec 24 - Christmas Under the Stars Worship 6:00 pm**
- Dec 24 - Christmas Candlelight Service 8:00 pm**

**What's Happening**

**The First Christmas Gift**



*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Happy New Year! It is so exciting to start this new church year with Saint James. So much is coming our way that we will be overflowing with work and joy as we move into whom God is calling us to be and become. But as we enter this time of transition, it is important to pause, ponder and process what God has already done. It is the time of year to focus on the gift that matters this Christmas. So how do we do this?

Well, there are several things we can do. One thing we can do is to choose to spend time with others talking about the birth of Christ and the meaning it has for you personally and the world? I am always amazed at Christians who repeatedly say they don't have time for this. What? You are too busy to spend time with believers, encouraging each other with the Spirit of Christmas? You are too busy to quiet yourselves long enough to let Christ in? There is a problem when we cut our time with each other and God out of Advent and Christmas. I'm not say we need to add more to our "To Do Lists" but rather am suggesting we start to down-size the list so that there is room for Jesus.

Another thing we can do is be more intentional while we are busy by bringing Christ into our work. Imagine singing (or at least listening to) old Christmas Carols while baking or wrapping gifts. This brings Jesus into your activity. Imagine prayer time while decorating inside and out. Again, this brings Jesus into your activity. Imagine centering ourselves in Christ before we go to any party or event so that we take Jesus into the space with us.

Finally, be intentional to saying "no" to many of the worldly things that in the end won't matter so you can say "yes" to the few things that WILL matter. Especially as we age, we should be freeing ourselves of the world's idea of Christmas so that we may grow and center on the real reason we celebrate.



Our prayers for you this year are that you will slow down enough to receive the spiritual gift this Christmas in way that solidifies your Hope, Joy, Love and Peace for the remainder of the year.

Merry Christmas & God Bless,  
Pastor Shirley & Rod



**We have had a great response signing up for the May through November Prayer Walks. Thank you to all who signed up and walked/drove the neighborhoods. A part of our mission is to reach out to others and bring them to Jesus. Let's continue the great work we have begun.**



**A BIG THANK YOU**  
to Pastor Shirley, Pat Dixon,  
Jean Flugel, Rod Groom,  
Marcia Mulvaney, Judy  
Snodgrass, Dave Strait and  
Michelle Traynor for writing  
Advent devotionals to be read  
throughout the Advent  
season. We will be blessed  
through each one we read.





**Connect** – To be a family of believers who connect to God and each other.

**Care** – To shine the light of Christ and welcome all we encounter encouraging worship, life groups, and spiritual growth.

**Commit** – To grow in faith through service to others both locally and globally.

**CORE VALUES:**

**Loving Relationships:**

Honest & loving relationships:  
With God through a worshipful attitude and prayer.  
With others through acceptance and grace to all.

**Spiritual Growth**

Grow with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit in a biblically centered, nurturing environment.

**Compassionate Service**

Offering help to others with humility and mutual respect.



**Teamwork**

Accomplish ministry in the context of relationships.

**We Are A Praying People!**

Please remember the following in your prayers this month.



- Bishop & Mrs. Carter, Rev. & Mrs. Thom Schafer, President Biden and Gov. DeSantis, all of our elected officials, Pastor Shirley & Rod, our staff, our church leaders, our Cub Scouts, Ron & Cyndi Andrasi, Aija Ball, Mike & Kathy Barbour, Vera Bellanca, Gene Blamble, Ed, Tina, Noah and Finley Catalane, Nancy Cozy, David & Pat Dixon

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer, facing left, against a background of stylized mountains. The person's hands are clasped in front of them.

The prayer focus for December will be:

- **Pray for the spirit to inspire each of us to invite someone to the Christmas Under the Stars Worship Service**
- **For the health of the congregation through the winter season**
- **Pray for peace for all of us during this busy holiday season**

Please pray for these things daily throughout the month.





The yoga class is held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There is a certified instructor. Sessions are \$5 each.



There is a... are \$5 each



Please remember to bring items for the Mayor's Feed The Hungry Program and place those items in the grocery cart in the narthex. Also, you may drop them off in the office during office hours Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 10 am and 2 pm.

Thank You!

## Birthdays in December



December 2

Dave Strait

December 6

Judy Shannon  
Susan Barr Gibson

December 10

Ed Catalane

December 26

Vera Bellanca

December 30

Gene Blamble

\*\* If you know someone is having a special year birthday (90+) or special anniversary (25, 30, 35 etc.) year please let the office know.

Thank You!



The staff would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

*Pastor Shirley*

*Bill*

*Henry*

*Joe*

*Rick*

*Jan*

*Fred*



### 2021 Shepherds

- Sennie Lansdowne – Head Shepherd
- Rose & Bill Johnson (A – D)
- Judy Snodgrass (E – Ha)
- Cyndi Andrasi (He – J)
- Beatriz Lowery (K – Mc)
- Marcia & Cecil Mulvaney (Mi – N)
- Nancy Winding (O – Z)
- Bonnie Kitzmiller (Snowbirds)



### Kudos this month go to

- ...Katie Michalski for cleaning up the lobby on All Saints Sunday
- ...Katie Michalski for putting out and picking up the candles, etc. for All Saints Day
- ...Karen Kehrli and Kathy Barbour for coordinating the candy for the Booker Middle School staff project
- ...Karen Kehrli for coordinating sending the OTC medicines to Cuba
- ...Sara Fleming and Karen Kehrli for putting the devotional books together
- ...Chip and Betty Newberger for the pretty flowers by the sign in the front of the property

### 2021 Leadership Team

- Trustees** Judy Shannon, Mike Barbour, Sara Fleming, and Jean Flugel
- Finance** Sennie Lansdowne, Fred Fowler, Bill Johnson and Bill Schroff
- SPRT** Cyndi Andrasi, Pat Dixon, Chip Newberger and Judy Snodgrass
- Lay Leader** Dave Strait
- Nurture Team Leader** Pat Dixon
- Outreach Team Co-Leaders** Kathy Barbour & Karen Kehrli
- Lay Delegate** Dave Strait



Thank you to those who served on the Leadership Team for 2021, you have been busy this past year and all your efforts are appreciated by the church family. Next month we will welcome some new members as they join those who will continue to serve.



## Did you know...?

- † Because of your hospitality we are welcoming Sarasota Academy of the Arts students to perform their Christmas Concert in the sanctuary.
- † Because of your generosity we have provided the Booker Middle Staff with goodies to help them feel appreciated and give them a boost of energy throughout their day
- † Because of your faithfulness, we are making a difference in the community that surrounds us.
- † God is moving in wonderful ways. We just wanted to make sure you knew!



**Kingdom Kids - We welcome all children and grandchildren (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade) to our "Kingdom Kids" class at 10:00 a.m. during the worship service.**

**We also have an Adult Class that meets before Worship please join them at 8:45 in the west wing room 310.**

**We will advise you when the Class resumes.**



## **Mayor's Feed The Hungry Food Bank**

The Mayor's Feed the Hungry Food Bank is one of our ongoing outreach projects. When they pick up our donations they have shared some things that are helpful to the clients that we may not have thought of.

Pet food is something they are glad to receive as when you are in need so are your pets. We had a donation of cat and dog food which helped alert us to the needs of pets.

Other things that are acceptable we don't always think of are dish soap, sponges, hand operated can openers, paper goods, etc.

Specialty food items ( low sugar, sugar free, gluten free, dairy free, etc.) can be helpful to those who have special dietary needs. It's something we don't always think about either.

We also have learned some clients don't have can openers so the pull tab tops on canned goods is a good choice. Ready to eat items for those who don't have a place to prepare food is welcome also.

We are doing an awesome job with our donations. The food bank as well as the clients are so appreciative of all we do.





Another big **THANK YOU** to..... Pastor Shirley, Rod Groom, Dave Strait, Robert and the Cub Scouts and their parents for coming out on a Saturday morning and setting up the lighting for the Christmas Under the Stars. It was a job well done and we are blessed for the effort each of you contributed to this project.



## Looking Ahead At Our Outreach Projects

**December** - Angel Tree gifts for the clients of The Remnant Café

**January** - Shower and laundry supplies for The Remnant Café

**Ongoing** – snacks/inspirational messages for the teachers at Booker Middle School, snacks for the students at Booker Middle School, Mayors Feed the Hungry Program.

## DLT Information

You are welcome to join a DLT group at any time. If you have not joined a DLT and would like to below are the days and times the DLT groups meet. At this time, they are meeting via Zoom or conference call. Please contact the facilitator for more information on their group.

**Women's group** Wednesday at 7:15 pm facilitator – Pat Dixon  
[pdixon@ringling.edu](mailto:pdixon@ringling.edu)

**Women's group** Wednesday at 12:00 noon facilitator – Pastor Shirley  
[revgroom@gmail.com](mailto:revgroom@gmail.com)

**Men & Women's group** Wednesday at 7:15 pm facilitator – Rod Groom  
[rod.groom@gmail.com](mailto:rod.groom@gmail.com)

**Men & Women's group** Thursday at 4:30 pm facilitator – Rod Groom  
[rod.groom@gmail.com](mailto:rod.groom@gmail.com)



## **WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**

**We will worship live and live streaming at 6:30 pm followed by Doing Life Together groups live and/or Zoom at 7:15 pm (If you'd like to join a DLT group and aren't connected yet please contact the office and arrangements will be made to get you connected.)**  
**Join us as we center on Jesus.**

# Christmas Eve Worship

Please join us for one or both of our  
Christmas Eve Worship Services

## Christmas Under the Stars

at 6:00 pm in front of the church by  
the Memorial Garden (if it rains it  
will be moved into the Fellowship  
Hall)

## Traditional Candlelight Service

in the chapel at 8:00 pm



# Joy to the World

S	H	R	R	Y	M	G	Z	S	B	Z	S	D
L	H	T	R	I	B	H	T	B	Z	E	G	T
E	H	S	C	M	G	A	J	A	J	S	N	H
M	Z	Y	A	L	R	A	J	D	M	N	I	R
A	O	R	T	L	U	E	M	V	I	E	S	E
C	Y	H	W	I	S	E	M	E	N	C	S	E
E	J	Y	P	U	V	T	K	N	F	N	E	K
L	P	E	S	E	R	I	K	T	A	I	L	I
C	W	D	M	E	S	B	T	P	N	K	B	N
A	L	E	G	N	A	O	L	A	T	N	A	G
R	H	N	N	S	T	X	J	Z	N	A	T	S
I	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E	M	R	S	J
M	B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	F	X	S

ADVENT  
ANGEL  
BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
BLESSINGS  
CAMELS  
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
MAGI  
MANGER  
MARY  
MIRACLE

MYRRH  
NATIVITY  
REJOICE  
STABLE  
STAR  
THREE KINGS  
WISE MEN







Thank you to Kathy Barbour, Mike Barbour, Jan Dougherty, Bernice Highberger, Bonnie Kitzmiller, Bill and Rose Johnson, Katie Michalski, Robert, and Judy Snodgrass for coming in and setting up the Christmas trees before hand to make Hanging of the Greens go quicker and smoother. We all appreciate your willingness to help out in this way. We also want to thank all those who stayed after worship for the Hanging of the Greens to decorate the church for Christmas. It looks beautiful throughout the church!



Thank you to all those who filled a shoebox for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We filled 33 boxes and 6 were filled online bringing our total to 39 for the year. Great job!

Thank you to Nancy Winding and Sennie Lansdowne for coordinating the project and delivering the shoeboxes to the collection center!



Please be sure to join us Sunday, December 12, 2021 as **The Haven** will be joining us to for worship and be playing the hand chimes. Let's make them and their families feel welcome as they haven't been able to join us for some time and it'll be great to have them return.



Once again, this year we will be collecting scarves, gloves and blankets for the Remnant Café for Christmas.

We don't need hats as we give those in the Bags of Hope. And they can wrap the scarves around their heads if they need when they don't have a hat.

Please include only a scarf, a pair of gloves and a regular size (twin size will work) blanket. They sometimes only have that blanket to keep them warm when they are sleeping out in the elements and the little throws aren't much good for warmth.

Please take an angel off the tree and when you bring the wrapped package and place it under the tree please be sure an angel is attached to the gift so they know God loves them. You may drop your gifts off at the office Monday – Wednesday between 10 am and 2 pm and we will add an angel to your package and place it under the tree. These gifts will be delivered to the Remnant Café the week of Christmas.




The **Meadows Chorus** will be having a Christmas concert here at Saint James Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. It is a gift of music to the community at no cost to you! Pastor Shirley, Sara Fleming and Melissa Sandberg are all members of the chorus. Hope to see you there!



**Poinsettias** will grace our sanctuary again this Christmas. The cost will be \$10.00 per poinsettia and you may take your plant home after the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. You may order them by filling out the order form that will be in the bulletin through the 5<sup>th</sup> (there will be forms in the narthex on the cookie table after that date) or by calling the office Monday - Wednesday, between 10 am and 2 pm. As always, you will be able to donate them in memory or in honor of a loved one, someone special, etc. We will take that information when you call to place your order or it will be on the order form. Then just submit your check as you normally do your offering and write in the memo line poinsettias and we will apply it to the correct account.



# December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 10:30 Chimes at The Haven 12:00 Women's DLT 5:00 Music Rehearsal 6:30 Worship –live & live streaming 7:00 DLT's live and/or via Zoom 7:00 GA	<b>2</b> Office closed 4:30 DLT live and/or via Zoom 6:00 Meadows Chorus	<b>3</b> Office closed 7:00 AA	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00 Worship Service	<b>6</b> 6:00 GCCC 7:00 Prayer Gathering 7:00 AA	<b>7</b> <b>8:30 Life Line Screening</b> 6:30 Bell Rehearsal 6:45 Cub Scouts 6:45 Boy Scouts	<b>8</b> 10:30 Chimes at The Haven 12:00 Women's DLT 5:00 Music Rehearsal 6:30 Worship –live & live streaming 7:00 DLT's live and/or via Zoom 7:00 GA	<b>9</b> Office closed <b>2:00 Meadows Chorus Christmas Concert</b> 4:30 DLT live and/or via Zoom 6:00 SAA Concert	<b>10</b> Office closed 6:00 SAA Concert 7:00 AA	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Bell Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:00 GCCC 7:00 Prayer Gathering 7:00 AA	<b>14</b> 6:45 Cub Scouts 6:45 Boy Scouts	<b>15</b> 12:00 Women's DLT 5:00 Music Rehearsal 6:30 Worship –live & live streaming 7:00 DLT's live and/or via Zoom 7:00 GA	<b>16</b> Office closed 4:30 DLT live and/or via Zoom 5:30 Village Oaks HOA	<b>17</b> Office closed 7:00 AA	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 Bell Rehearsal 10:00 Worship Service	<b>20</b> 9:00 GFWC Woman's Club 6:00 GCCC 7:00 Prayer Gathering 7:00 AA	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00 GA	<b>23</b> Office closed	<b>24</b> Office closed <b>6:00 Christmas Under The Stars</b> 7:00 AA <b>8:00 Candle Light Service</b>	<b>25</b> 
<b>26</b> 10:00 Worship Service	<b>27</b> 7:00 Prayer Gathering 7:00 AA	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:00 GA	<b>30</b> Office closed	<b>31</b> Office closed 7:00 AA	



## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2021

Date	Reader	Prayer Warriors	Audio	Visual	Worship Welcome Team	Children's Sunday School	Communion Servers	Discovery Devotion Leader	Counters	Building Closers	LAWN TEAM
<b>December 5<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent Blue</b>	Kathy Barbour	Judy Snodgrass		Pat Dixon	Cecil Mulvaney Katie Michalski	N/A	Rose & Bill Johnson Judy Snodgrass Marcia Mulvaney	<b>12/1</b> Pastor Shirley w/ Communion		Rose & Bill Johnson	<b>12/4</b>
<b>December 12<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Blue</b>	Gary Sontchi	Alfred from The Haven		Karen Kehrli	Sennie Lansdowne Jean Flugel	Fred Fowler		<b>12/8</b> Pat Dixon		Cecil & Marcia Mulvaney	<b>12/11</b>
<b>December 19<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Blue</b>	Rod Groom	Marcia Mulvaney		Cyndi Andrasi	The Barbours	Judy Snodgrass		<b>12/15</b> Rod Groom		Rod Groom	<b>12/18</b> Rod Groom Dave Strait
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Under the Stars – 6:00 pm Outdoors</b>	Judy Snodgrass	Corporate	Dave Strait	N/A	Cecil & Marcia Mulvaney	N/A	Marcia Mulvaney Cecil Mulvaney Kathy & Mike Barbour	<b>12/22</b> <b>No Wednesday Service</b>		N/A	
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup> Candlelight Svc 8:00 pm – Chapel Blue</b>	Sara Fleming Dave Strait	Corporate		Karen Kehrli	Bernice & Bill Highberger	N/A	Judy Snodgrass Bonnie Kitzmiller Rod Groom Pastor Shirley	<b>12/29</b> <b>No Wednesday Service</b>		Rod Groom	

Date	<i>Reader</i>	Prayer Warriors	Audio	Visual	Worship Welcome Team	Children's Sunday School	Communion Servers	Discovery Devotion Leader	Counters	Building Closers	LAWN TEAM
<b>December 26<sup>th</sup></b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</b> <b>Blue</b>	Rod Groom	Rose Johnson		Cyndi Andrasi	The Sontchis	Bernice Highberger		<b>1/5</b> <b>Pastor Shirley</b> <b>w/</b> <b>Communion</b>		Jean Flugel Sennie Lansdowne	